

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BAGHDA 00604 110813Z

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13

OMB-01 SAB-01 SAM-01 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 CU-02 /082 W

----- 057908

R 110725Z MAY 76

FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3126

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 0604

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IZ, KU

SUBJ: SADDAM HUSSEIN TO VISIT KUWAIT

1. WHILE RELATIONS BETWEEN IRAQ AND SYRIA CONTINUE TO DETERIORATE (SEPTEL), RUMORS ARE NOW SPREADING IN BAGHDAD THAT THE POSTPONED VISIT OF SADDAM HUSSEIN TO KUWAIT IS NOW BACK ON THE TRACKS AND A BORDER SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT WILL BE SIGNED DURING THE VISIT.

2. WHILE THESE RUMORS HAVE NOT BEEN VERIFIED, SUCH A STEP WOULD BE CONSISTENT WITH IRAQ'S RECENT POLICY OF IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH THE GULF AND THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES. IRAQ'S "OPENNESS" POLICY HAS CONTINUED UNABATED IN RECENT WEEKS WITH A STEADY STREAM OF VIP VISITORS FROM THE MIDDLE EAST REGION AND THE THIRD WORLD AS WELL AS NUMEROUS VISITS ABROAD BY IRAQI VIP'S.

3. WITH THE RATHER GLARING EXCEPTION OF SYRIA, IRAQ'S "OPENNESS" PLICIES SEEM TO BE ACHIEVING SOME SUCCESS. WHILE STILL WARY OF IRAQ'S MOTIVES, THE GULF STATES NOW SEEM WILLING TO INCLUDE IRAQ IN THEIR VARIOUS PLANS FOR REGIONAL ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, AND CULTURAL COOPERATION. IRAQ IS ALSO PLAYING AN ACTIVE ROLE IN THIRD
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PAGE 02 BAGHDA 00604 110813Z

WORLD POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC ORGANIZATIONS AND IS PUSHING FOR

A STRONGER LEADERSHIP ROLE AMONG THESE COUNTRIES.

4. ALTHOUGH THE NEW TRENDS HAVE SO FAR HAD LITTLE IMPACT ON U.S.-IRAQI POLITICAL RELATIONS, IT SEEMS TO US THAT IRAQ'S RETREAT FROM ITS EARLIER ZENOPHOBIC HOSTILITY TO ALL FOREIGN INFLUENCES AND ITS MORE OPEN PARTICIPATION IN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY WILL EVENTUALLY HAVE SOME FAVORABLE EFFECT ON U.S.-IRAQI RELATIONS AS WELL.

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